

# Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

## Newsletter to Members 2018 WINTER....ISSUE #1/4

*Discovering our history,  
Preserving our past,  
Sharing our stories.*



### Ames Historical Society Board:

**Co-President** Sharon Wirth  
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*The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 7pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!*

### Staff:

**Executive Director** Casie Vance  
**Research & Media Specialist** Alex Feifar  
**Collections Manager** Carly Hlubek

### Emeritus Staff:

Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance,  
Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

**Headquarters:** 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010  
**Hours** Tue. – Sat. 10 am - 4 pm  
**Mail:** PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010  
**Phone:** 515-232-2148  
**E-mail:** info@ameshistory.org  
**Website:** www.AmesHistory.org  
**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

**Hoggatt School** is located on the grounds of Meeker School near 18<sup>th</sup> and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. Open Sundays June to August and by appointment. from April to October. Closed November to March.

## Special Exhibit Features Ames Pilot Fly With Banning

**On view at Ames Public Library, February 1 - February 25, 2018  
in the second floor gallery during library open hours.**

Ames Historical Society and the Ames Public Library are excited to host the traveling exhibition, "Fly with Banning" that features James Herman Banning, the first African American to receive a U.S. Department of Commerce pilot's license and the first to fly across the United States.



very satisfying that it is finally on display in Ames.

Banning lived in Ames in the 1920s. He attended Iowa State College and had a mechanic's shop on West Fourth Street. It was while living in Ames that he learned to fly at Raymond Fisher's Flying Field in Des Moines. He left Ames to live in Los Angeles in 1929 where he met mechanic Thomas Cox Allen, who accompanied him on the historic flight to New York City in 1932.

The exhibit was created by a non-profit called Greatest Stories Never Told, based in Oklahoma where Banning was born. Pat Smith and Louisa Jaggar conducted extensive research on Banning, consulting experts in African American and aviation history along with relatives of Banning. They have created four living history videos and the "Fly with Banning" traveling exhibition. The organization is telling the stories of unknown minority heroes.

The interactive exhibition teaches history, math, literature and engineering - but we hope that viewers will leave the exhibit feeling inspired. Families with children

are especially encouraged to see "Fly With Banning."



***I decided that  
motorcycles and  
automobiles were  
too slow and  
uninteresting, so I  
became air-minded.***

**JAMES HERMAN BANNING**

The exhibit was supported by Humanities Iowa, Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau Community Grant Program, Iowa Space Grant Consortium, Story County Community Foundation, Wells Fargo, APL Friends Foundation, United Way, Haps Air Service, TurnKey Investments, Members 1<sup>st</sup> Community Credit Union.

# Ames High Exhibit Continues to August

## Now on Display: Ames Hi Aiming High Through the Years

The current exhibit at the History Center, "Ames Hi Aiming High Through the Years" features the four buildings that, through time, have housed our city's high school. It will be on view at 416 Douglas to August 11.

Visitors will see pictures of those four structures and stories about academics, athletics, clubs, activities, social life, events and performing arts during the era students attended each school building.

The exhibit includes a wall of names of all 26, 738 Ames High graduates, a slide show of high school "hang-outs" through the years and what the future holds for a possible Ames High #5.



Ames High stories are highlighted with important artifacts.



A typical locker displays a letter sweater, shoes and bits of high school paper memorabilia.

Next to it is a Pep Club vest worn by girls in the 1960s.



A mid-1960s megaphone used by boys in the White Shirt Section is signed by those who participated.

The Victory Bell was held by the team that won the annual Ames - Boone match-up from 1951 to 1972.



ri Massey · Justin Masteller · Michael McDonald · Nova Madison · Linda Mayberry · Christopher Mayberry · Curtis Mayberry · Melissa May McClelland · Mary McClelland · Thomas McClelland · James McClugage McDermott · Alberta McDonald · Ardath McDonald · Brian McDonald · Christopher McGee · Bryan McGee · Curtis McGee · Justin McGeehey · Ian · Roger McKeown · Ellen McKibben · Hazel McKibben · Victoria McJillian · Andrew McJillian · Della McRoberts · Kevin McRoberts · Lovon McEndhill · Shelly McFerrell · Dorothy Mendon · Mary Jane Mendley · Mary Meyers · Nella Meyers · Ashley Meyn · Austin Meyn · Joshua Miller · Kristie Miller · Chrystal Miller · Claire Miller · Claude Miller · D Miller · Ross Miller · Richard Miller · Ruth A. Miller · Ruth E. Miller · Ruth S. Mitchell · Marion Mitchell · Marilyn Mitchell · Michael Mitchell · Mildred Moore · Alyssa Moore · Andrea Moore · Andrew Moore · Ann M. Mod

Ames High graduates are encouraged to find and highlight their names on the wall of names. Local folks may also highlight names of distant family and friends.

Alex Fejfar and Keith Bystrom displayed vintage Ames High shirts at the Nov. 30 Members Night.

Theirs compare with the 1928 jersey on display!



## Local Stories – Distinguished Ames High Alumni

In 1990, the Ames High Alumni Association began honoring graduates with the Distinguished Alumni Award. This award is based on what the graduate has done and/or contributed to society since graduation. A display of awardees is in the student commons at AHS.

1990 **R. J. "Jack" Smalling**, Class of 1958  
Developed the AHS alumni database

1991 **The Adams Family**  
Honoring a line of notable graduates from 1888 to 1987

1992 **James R. Michaud**, Class of 1953  
Devoted follower of Ames High athletics

1993 **Farwell T. Brown**, Class of 1929  
Ames historian, Ames Historical Society founder

1994 **Brian G. Jenkins**, Class of 1976  
CNN correspondent and world traveler

1995 **Kenneth H. Hanger**, Class of 1946  
Investment financier; established Hanger Scholarship

1996 **Helen Rae Daley Smith**, Class of 1940  
Established Daley Park in Ames; entrepreneur

1997 **Paul R. Jones**, Class of 1934  
Football stand-out, local businessman, major AHS donor

1998 **Father Thomas J. Maney**, Class of 1943  
Curate and pastor in Chile, South America

1999 **Sandra Q. Albertson Larson**, Class of 1971  
Bridge engineer with Iowa D.O.T.

2000 **Margaret Fung**, Class of 1967  
Exec. Dir., Asian-American Legal Defense Fund, NYC

2001 **Charles B. Knapp**, Class of 1964  
University V.P. & Pres., U.S. Deputy Asst. Sec. of Labor

2002 **John F. Foreman**, Class of 1965  
Superior Court Justice, Arizona

2003 **Robert L. Bartley**, Class of 1955  
Wall Street Journal editorial page; Pulitzer Prize

2004 **Jerold E. Bowen**, Class of 1965  
Journalist, reporter, anchorman, producer, CBS News

2005 **Peter G. Buck**, M.D., Class of 1971  
Orthopedic surgeon, McFarland Clinic

2006 **Susan Allen Toth**, Class of 1957  
Writer, including Ames memoirs

2007 **Rein Saral, M.D.**, Class of 1961  
Physician, medical researcher, teacher, administrator

2008 **Theodore J. Kooser**, Class of 1957  
U.S. Poet Laureate 2004-06; Pulitzer Prize

2009 **Neil H. Thompson**, Class of 1966  
Hollywood film and television actor and writer

2010 **James A. Merchant**, M.D., Class of 1958  
Physician, occupational and environmental health

2011 **Kathie Kinrade Obradovich**, Class of 1983  
Journalist, Des Moines Register Politics Editor

2012 **Richard B. Campbell**, Class of 1955  
Architect; designed Pearl Harbor Memorial

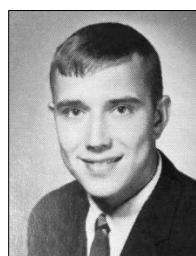
2013 **DeAnne Shirley Julius**, Class of 1967  
Economist, Royal Dutch Shell and British Airways; CBE

2014 **Karen M. Albertson**, Class of 1978  
Chemical and Biological Engineer

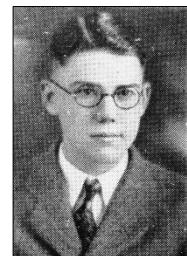
2015 **Jacqueline Andre Schmeal**, Class of 1956  
Founder, Iowa Barn Foundation

2016 **Gary W. Clem**, Class of 1961  
Chairman, ALMACO Company

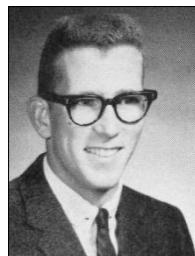
2017 **Connie Jo Israel**, Class of 1972  
Competitive gymnast, coach, competition manager



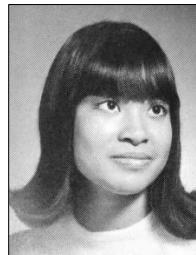
Bowen



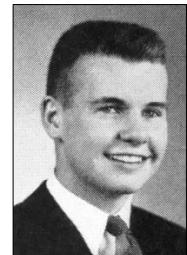
Brown



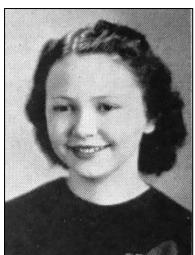
Clem



Fung



Hanger



Daley Smith



Kooser



Obradovich



Schmeal

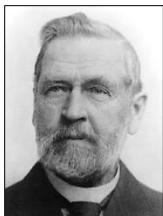
# 2018 Ames Historical Society Lecture Series

Presented in partnership with Ames Public Library. All lectures at Ames Public Library's Farwell Brown Auditorium, 515 Douglas. Free & open to the public  
Assisted hearing device available on request.

**Tuesday, February 20, 7pm**

## **The Long Years: Iowa Agricultural College, Faculty Unrest And Student Rebellion, 1883-1890**

By Douglas Biggs, Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Kearney



The 1880s were long years at Iowa Agricultural College. The small school of barely 300 students, isolated on the prairie two miles west of Ames, saw four presidents in the seven years from 1883-1890. The turnover was a sign of deep divisions over curriculum and the perception that the college was straying from its intended purpose of agricultural education. The students were divided and openly rebellious over issues of student conduct, required chapel attendance and the introduction of the Greek system. By 1890, some important agricultural interests in the state wondered if the idea of an agricultural college was even worth continuing. Biggs will discuss the controversies during these unquiet times.

**Tuesday, March 27, 7pm**

## **History, It's About The People: The Women Of Cranford**

By Marilyn Gibbs Alger, current co-owner with her brother, Monte Gibbs



Cranford Apartments in Campustown, were founded by a small group of Iowa State faculty women just two years after women won the right to vote. Seeing the need for housing for single faculty women, they pooled their resources and hired a female architect. In the fall of 1922, the Faculty Women's Housing Company - Cranford Apartments - was open for business and occupancy at 103 Stanton. The building still houses thirty apartments and two business establishments. Our speaker has been researching Cranford for three years and will share some of its history and stories of the remarkable Women of Cranford.

**Wednesday April 25, 7pm**

## **Iowa In The 1980s: Teen Edition**

By Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, professor of history, Iowa State University



When seeking information about the past, some researchers have learned that school yearbooks can provide invaluable information. Prof. Riney-Kehrberg was interested in the effect in Iowa of the 1980s Farm Crisis and the decade of economic downturn – specifically – how did Iowa's teens see it? In this talk, she will explore the teen experience of the 1980s and the way in which high school yearbooks can be used to research the history of Iowa's young people. Examples from the Ames High Spirit will be presented.

**Wednesday May 23, 7pm**

## **Peopling Iowa: First Generation Immigrants in Story County**

By Mark Barron, Iowa State University public historian



The story of immigration is an integral part of Iowa's history. Based on the work of Iowa State University history students, Public Historian Mark Barron will discuss how first generation immigrant groups arrived into Story County, where they settled and how they helped transform the landscape of Central Iowa. Please join us as we explore the history of Story County's first European settlers.

**Tuesday June 26, 2018, 7pm**

## **The Manhattan Project's Secret Weapon: Dr. Wilhelm**

Teresa Wilhelm Waldf, author: *The Boy from Pumptown: The Scientist Who Solved the Manhattan Project's Uranium Problem*



When the U.S. declared war against Japan and Germany after the 1941 Pearl Harbor attacks, one thing became clear: the atomic bomb project would need to move forward at a breakneck pace. To succeed, the project needed millions of pounds of purified uranium but the metal did not exist in those quantities. Uranium had been discovered 150 years earlier, but no one had successfully purified it. Dr. Harley Wilhelm, a chemist at Iowa State, was recruited to work on this problem. In September 1942, Wilhelm carried a secret cargo to Chicago: the world's first ingot of purified uranium. The son of a southern Iowa sharecropper was an unlikely character to change world history. His life is an untold story, one which enabled the United States to win the war.

## Hlubek Expands Her Staff Role



Carly Hlubek is an Iowa State senior in History who has been our Work-Study student employee for over a year. Carly has taken on a number of assignments, but her main interest has been assisting with collections. In this effort, former Collections Manager, Hannah Frederick, trained her in proper

procedures. With Hannah's departure, Carly has accepted the offer to become the next Collections Manager. She will work half-time while finishing her degree in May. She intends to pursue a Master's in Collections through the same online program that Hannah used. The staff is very pleased that Carly will stay on and expand her role.

## History Scratch

A new display at the History Center lets you "erase" current pictures of four historic buildings to see what



the structure looked like years ago. Set up on a computer monitor just inside the

front door, your fingertip does the magic to see "now" and "then." This fun project was sponsored by Marrs Wealth Management, Ames.

## News briefs

- **Hallway exhibits** at the History Center are:
  - Stevens Block on Main Street
  - Artifacts from the Attic: Dolls
  - ACTORS history
  - A City Afloat: Floods of the 1990s
- Join the 2,207 people who "like" us on Facebook. The historical photos that appear each week in the **Ames Tribune** are posted on our Facebook page. We enjoy the reactions and comments!
- Don't forget to take a look at and ask to be "friended" on the "**Lost Ames**" Facebook page.

## Extended Member Benefit

Society members will now receive a **15% discount** for everything in the Gift Shop all year long. This is a change from the 25% discount offered twice a year. Shoppers just need to mention their membership when making a purchase.

## Smile with Amazon

Amazon has developed a charitable giving program called Amazon Smile where a portion of sales go to designated non-profits. The Society is registered, so all you do is log in to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), select Ames Historical Society

from the drop-down menu and then shop as usual. All the

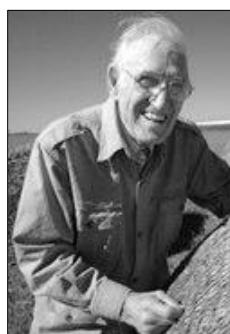
selections and pricing are the same – it's just that with an extra click or two, your shopping benefits the Society. Thanks, Amazon!

## Bidding Farewell

Local history lost a tireless worker with the January 26

passing of Janet Klaas, long time member, donor and avid volunteer. In past newsletters, we have featured Janet's recent work transcribing audio and video recordings – but her involvement started years ago when she assisted Farwell Brown in annotating his historic photograph collection. This was while she was working as a reference librarian at Ames Public Library – and when she retired from there, she immediately plunged into major research projects at the History Center. Her legacy stands on a shelving unit packed with the material she assembled – all of which makes the information much more engaging and accessible. To say that she will be missed is truly an understatement!

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Ames' very own iconic inventor, Wes Buchele, slipped away from this life on September 13 at age 97. Wes joined the faculty in Agricultural Engineering at Iowa State in 1963. Working with students and faculty, he published hundreds of technical articles and was awarded 23 patents, the two most notable being the large round baler and the helical-flow threshing cylinder for combines. Wes gave a memorable presentation on his work during the 2014 Lecture Series and after that, never missed attending a Society lecture or open house event. Our archives have a noteworthy amount of material on Wes, and the Shop sells his book, *The Grain Harvesters* which he donated to benefit the Society. One of the last outings Wes made was to our WW2-themed annual benefit in late August – dressed in his khaki WW2 uniform!

# Society News



## Please Join Us for the 2018 Annual Meeting!

The 2018 annual meeting of the membership will be held at Ames Public Library on **Saturday, March 3, 10am**.

Refreshments will be served, an overview of 2017 activities will be presented, and Sharon Wirth will give the program, **“Secrets of the Cemetery.”**



“Secrets of the Cemetery” was inspired by the fact that the city’s ownership of the cemetery just marked its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Sharon will provide background on how the ownership changed from private to public – as well as some of the more interesting burials and other intriguing information. Please join us!



The Old Fashioned Christmas on Dec. 2 featured holiday craft activities, refreshments and a visit from the jolly old elf himself!



Members After Hours on Nov. 30 (below) attracted a good crowd to preview the Ames High exhibit before it opened to the public. In true Ames High spirit, the refreshments table



was decorated in orange and black, featuring a black table cloth, orange cheese, orange carrots, PB&J sandwiches (like those served in the high school cafeteria) as well as hot chili.

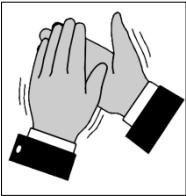


The open house prior to the December 29 All Classes Reunion brought Ann Hawthorne, Lisa Buck Marino and Sara Townsend Stevenson through the door along with 70 others.

## 2017 Annual Appeal Wrap-Up

The Society's Board and staff would like to extend our most grateful thanks to the 129 donors who contributed to our successful 2017 Annual Appeal!

Your generosity added up to the grand total of ~\$26,000! Of this, \$3,000 was designated for the Society's Endowment. 2017 was a tight budget year for the Society and these donations provide measurable breathing room and support for everything that happens around the History Center on a daily basis, such as answering inquiries, cooling the archives, cataloguing the collection, presenting programs and matching grants. We could not do what we do without your help!



## Bequests Have Big Impact

Two Society members recently passed away, leaving sizeable gifts to the organization. Bequests are another way that members can support the important work of preserving and sharing local stories.



Peter J. Reilly was a Chemical Engineer who taught and researched at Iowa State from 1974 to 2014. He published widely and supervised twenty-two Ph.D. students from eleven countries. Pete especially enjoyed the international facet of his career and enabled his colleagues and students to benefit from international experiences. After retirement, Peter became involved with the Society, serving on the Membership Committee and attending events. The use for his gift of \$25,000 will be determined in the near future, but will likely support special projects and the endowment.



Dorothy Tschopp McGee, "Dottie" served on the Society's Board. During her lifetime, she used her degrees in Social Work to provide important leadership to both Senior and Youth Services in Ames. In addition to her vital career work for the Senior Center, Youth & Shelter Services and Mary Greeley's Homeward, she was the consummate volunteer for human service and arts non-profit agencies in Ames. Dottie's first husband, Herb, was a math teacher at Ames Middle School. Dottie shared her love of community theater with her second husband, Tom McGee. Dottie's \$35,000 gift will also have a big impact on the Society's ability to serve the community.

## About Donating to the Collection

If you or others you know have items that might be of interest for our collection - either 3D or paper documents - we ask that you:

- Choose items that have a strong Ames connection. Other items may be considered, but may be less compelling (but give us a chance to decide).
- Call ahead and make an appointment, 515-232-2148.
- Provide as much documentation as possible. Items that come with a story are very valuable to us and help us to place them in context and use them in exhibits and for research.
- Choose items in the best possible condition.

## Let Us Count the Ways

While Peter and Dottie's gifts were remarkable, not everyone is able to help local history in that way.



### Consider these ideas:

- Give **gift memberships** to family members or friends.
- Remember a loved one with a **memorial** in their name.
- **Increase** your membership to the next highest level.
- Set up **automatic** payments through online banking.
- **Shop** in our Museum Shop that features Ames and Iowa-related books and gifts.
- See if your employer **matches** your charitable donations.
- **Volunteer** a few hours a month. We are always looking for front desk hosts as well as assistance with projects.
- In addition to your membership donation, contribute to our **Endowment** Fund for a lasting impact.
- At age 70½, certain investors must take the **Required Minimum Distribution** (if they are not already doing so). This is taxable income. A contribution to the Society may lower tax liability.\*
- Donors who are 70½ and older may have the opportunity to **transfer** up to \$100,000 of IRA assets directly to public charities and receive an Endow Iowa tax credit.\*\*
- Make a gift of appreciated **securities** instead of cash and receive tax benefits.\*\*
- When creating your will or **estate** plan, include the Society as a beneficiary.

\*Check with your financial planner or tax advisor

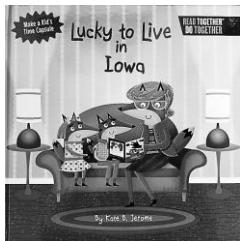
\*\*Call Story County Community Foundation for more information, 515-232-9200

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## Museum Shop



**ANNOUNCING A MEMBER BENEFIT:**  
15% off all shop items, all the time!

**A NEW SUPPLY OF ONONDAGA COFFEE:**

The Shop has restocked our popular Onondaga Blend coffee, roasted especially for the Society by Burgie's Coffee in Ames. Combine a bag with a handmade pottery coffee mug for a great hostess gift.

**NEW BOOK TITLES:**

Lucky To Live in Iowa, Younkers, the Friendly Store; Campustown: a Brief History of the First West Ames.

**AMES, IOWA TEE-SHIRT**

Black or grey; just \$12

Open hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm



The "Fly With Banning" exhibit is up until Feb. 25 at the public library. It recounts the first transcontinental flight by an African-American pilot who happened to be from Ames.

**Is it time to renew your membership?**

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now — pay online at our updated website!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010